



# PROGRAM UPDATE

## Office of Worker and Community Transition United States Department of Energy July- September 2001

### **MICHAEL W. OWEN NAMED DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF WORKER AND COMMUNITY TRANSITION**

On August 1, 2001, Michael W. Owen became the Director of the Department of Energy's Office of Worker and Community Transition. In his new role, Mr. Owen will be responsible for developing Departmental policies and programs to plan for and mitigate the impacts of changing conditions on the workers and communities affected by changing Departmental missions. He replaces Gary King.

From 1984-1994, Mr. Owen served as Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Logistics and Environment. His responsibilities included overseeing the Corps of Engineers' design, engineering, construction and installation operations, as well as the Corps' environmental program. He was charged with managing the Army's base closure and resultant environmental clean-up efforts and managed the Department of Defense chemical and conventional weapons disposal programs. He also oversaw the Army's supply and repair depots as well as the transportation network.

Prior to his position at the Energy Department, Mr. Owen was President of Governmental Strategies, Inc., a government relations, marketing and public relations firm; he served as Chief of Staff to U.S. Congresswoman Marjorie S. Holt from 1973-1984; and he was a member of the staff of the Baltimore City Council.

Mr. Owen received his Bachelor's degree in History and Political Science from Towson University. In addition to graduate work in government, he attended Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, Federal Policy Institute.

### **THE NINTH NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER'S WORKSHOP POSTPONED**

The Ninth National Stakeholder Workshop (Workshop) scheduled for November 6-9, 2001, in Las Vegas, Nevada, was postponed. The Office of Worker and Community Transition is targeting the spring of 2002 for the next Workshop.

Several policy initiatives, including those associated with the National Energy Policy, are currently being formulated by the Administration. One of the benefits of the Workshop is



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the participation of high-level Department of Energy officials to discuss policy that affects the entire Department and its relationship to individual sites. Thus, a Workshop in November would preclude some of the policy discussions. However, policy initiatives should be reflected in the FY 2003 budget which is expected to be released in February 2002. Therefore, a Workshop in the spring of 2002 should produce increased benefits for all attendees.

### **JESSIE ROBERSON SWORN-IN AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

The Department of Energy announced on July 18, 2001, that Ms. Jessie Roberson was sworn-in as Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management. In this position, Ms. Roberson will spearhead the efforts in cleaning up inactive waste sites and facilities, waste management operations, research and development programs, and environmental restoration. She was confirmed by the United States Senate by unanimous consent.

Ms. Roberson is a member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board and was previously the Department of Energy's Manager of the Rocky Flats Field Office at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site in Colorado from 1996 to 1999. In 1996, she was named National Black Engineer of the Year for Professional Achievement in Government. She has also held positions with Georgia Power Company and DuPont. Originally from Evergreen, Alabama, Ms. Roberson is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

### **FISCAL YEAR 2000 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Department's "Annual Report on Contractor Work Force Restructuring at the U.S. Department of Energy During Fiscal Year 2000," reviews the implementation of work force restructuring plans during fiscal year 2000. A total of 2,666 contractor employees were separated under these plans as a result of transitioning to new contracting mechanisms, adjustments in skills required for new missions, and funding adjustments. Of these separations, 71 percent were voluntary.

The Annual Report was published in July 2001, and is available on-line at [www.wct.doe.gov](http://www.wct.doe.gov), under "Program Documentation," "Program Reports and Presentations."

### **WORK FORCE RESTRUCTURING ACTIVITIES**

#### **Work Force Restructuring at the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) Y-12 Area Office**

On July 25, 2001, the NNSA Y-12 Area Office was given Secretarial approval to announce a work force restructuring of a total of approximately 200 employees of BWXT Y-12, LLC at the Y-12 Site at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, over the next 12 months. Approximately 40 of the affected



employees in the Advanced Infrastructure Management Technologies (AIMTech) organization went off the payroll on August 30, 2001, due to a decline in work for other Federal Agencies. Approximately 125 additional positions will be eliminated during the first half of FY 2002, primarily due to needed changes in the skills mix.

### **Work Force Restructuring at Idaho**

On August 8, 2001, the Idaho Operations Office implemented a Voluntary Separation Program (VSP) at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory, which closed on August 31, 2001, to achieve reductions of 400 positions in FY 2001. However, only about 176 employees elected to participate in the program. The VSP represented the second phase of the restructuring plan announced in the 120-day notification on March 26, 2001. Idaho implemented the first phase of the plan through an Early Retirement Incentive, which was completed on June 25, 2001, with 441 individuals electing to participate in the program.

## **COMMUNITY TRANSITION ACTIVITIES**

### **Potential Land Transfer at Idaho**

The Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory's (INEEL) coal-fired plant, built in 1983, was used to produce steam for facility heating and industrial processes until it was shut down in 1999. The Department of Energy (DOE) recently issued a notice in the Commerce Business Daily asking for expressions of interest from private industry in using the coal-fired plant to generate electricity and for engineering scale technology development. Studies indicate that it would be necessary to invest about \$8 million to upgrade the facility in order to generate 15 megawatts of electricity. A lease would be signed between the Eastern Idaho Community Reuse Organization and DOE defining how the proposed private company could operate the facility at INEEL. DOE would be responsible for considering environmental impacts that would occur through reuse of the plant. The plant would be operated as a private company regulated by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, and Idaho's Department of Environmental Quality. The private company will also be required to perform an Environmental Assessment on the potential impacts of modifying and operating the facility. A timetable as to when these activities will take place has not been established.

## **ASSET MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

### **Electronics Stewardship Forum**

The Electronics Stewardship Forum (ESF) is scheduled for October 18-19, 2001, in Arlington Virginia. Mr. James Connaughton, Chairman of the President's Council on Environmental Quality, will give the keynote address. The objective of the ESF is to provide guidance on an appropriate Action Plan for implementation to the Parties to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Improving Environmental Management of Electronics Assets. Three major areas will



be addressed: 1) procurement and acquisition, 2) use and management, and 3) end of life and recycling. The ESF is a continuation of the initial meeting of the Parties to the MOU, held in February 2001, in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

### **Strategic and Critical Materials**

The Asset Management Program has been assisting the Office of Defense Programs, the National Nuclear Security Administration, and the Office of Science with regard to the acquisition of strategic and critical materials from the Defense National Stockpile Center. The Asset Management Program is the official point-of-contact for the Department of Energy (DOE) on the Market Impact Committee, which advises the Administrator of the Defense National Stockpile Center on the acquisition and disposition of strategic and critical materials in the Center. The Market Impact Committee is a Presidential Advisory Committee, co-chaired by the Departments of State and Commerce, and is designed to advise the Administrator of the Defense National Stockpile Center to prevent the domestic or international economic disruption of actions as the result of the acquisition or disposition of strategic and critical materials. The Asset Management Program, as the point-of-contact for DOE with the Market Impact Committee, will coordinate the DOE requests to the Administrator of the Center for the use of strategic and critical materials. Mr. Mike Owen, Director of the Office of Worker and Community Transition and the Asset Management Program staff met with Cornel Holder, Deputy Administrator of the Defense National Stockpile Center and his staff on October 11, 2001, at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia, to discuss several independent DOE requests for strategic and critical materials. The objective of the meeting was to develop a path forward on how best to coordinate the transfer of those materials, in keeping with the statutory provisions which govern the operations of the Defense National Stockpile Center.

## REQUEST FOR PUBLIC DOCUMENT(S)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City and state: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

### DOCUMENTS REQUESTED:

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